

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF AMADOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

DECLARATION OF AN IMMINENT THREAT OF)
DISASTER DUE TO SEVERE AND PERSISTENT) RESOLUTION NO. 20-012
FIRE DANGER)

WHEREAS, The State of California has historically experienced low to moderate intensity fire regimes on its landscape, which in balance and moderation, contribute to healthier ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Fire suppression efforts starting in the early 1900s and changes in forest management practices have resulted in overstocked stands, denser vegetation, and other fuel on the ground that traditionally would have burned every five to seven years; and

WHEREAS, Warming climates are also contributing to drier vegetation, more quickly melting snowpack and longer dry periods; and

WHEREAS, The traditional fire season in California is growing more intense and extending longer through the year. Wildfires are increasing in severity, devastating hundreds of thousands of acres and causing to life and property; and

WHEREAS, Rural communities experience the effects of these deadly wildfires more strongly due to substantial acreages of forested public lands, significant numbers of senior residents, a smaller tax base with less discretionary funds, high amounts of tree mortality caused by drought and a large portion of residents living in the Wildland Urban Interface; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 30% of Amador County's land base is publicly managed forested land, consisting primarily of the El Dorado National Forest and Bureau of Land Management properties. Amador County was declared one of 10 high hazard counties for the number of hazardous trees due to drought and most all the private lands east of Highway 49 in the County of Amador have been declared as being in high or very high fire hazard severity zone by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); and

WHEREAS, Amador County's population of seniors 65 years of age and older is 27% while the State of California's average is 14%. The median income of Amador County households is approximately \$61,198 while the median household income of the State of California is \$71,228; and

WHEREAS, In rural communities identified as prone to wildfire, nearly 350,000 Californians lost their traditional home insurance from 2015 to 2018 according to state data; and

WHEREAS, On October 27, 2019, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to extreme fire weather conditions and affiliated red flag warnings stating the weather conditions are unprecedented due to the scale, scope, wind speed and dry fuel conditions that pose a serious and imminent to the health and safety of Californians; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630 empowers the Board of Supervisors from any County to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property and are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the County; and

WHEREAS, The magnitude of severe and persistent fire danger represents a threat that is beyond the capacity of Amador County services (public and private), personnel, equipment and facilities and requires coordination, assistance and mutual aid from State and Federal agencies in prevention, response and recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Amador County does hereby find that the conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of an imminent threat of disaster due to severe and persistent fire danger in Amador County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Amador County requests the Governor of the State of California approve California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) funding or any other dedicated state funding to be used for the following activities:

1. Road construction for communities with one ingress/egress route as well as separate dedicated funding to perform road maintenance on non-primary roads for additional emergency ingress/egress
2. Vegetation management in and around public infrastructure
3. Fuel reduction projects conducted by Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Special Districts and the County
4. Defensible space assistance for seniors 60 years and older and those with access and functional needs
5. A residential green-waste removal and disposal program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Amador County requests the Governor of the State of California waive the following regulations that hinder prevention, response, and recovery efforts related to severe fire and persistent fire danger:

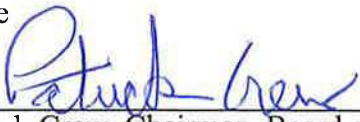
1. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for fuel reduction projects conducted by Fire Safe Councils, CAL Fire, Resource Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Special Districts and the County
2. Department of Industrial Relations Registration for fuel reduction and home hardening activities

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 28th day of January, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: Pat Crew, Richard Forster, Jeff Brown, Frank Axe, Brian Oneto

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



Patrick Crew, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

JENNIFER BURNS, Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors, Amador County



Deputy